

United States Government

Department of Energy

memorandum

DATE: December 27, 1994

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance:Lichtman:6-4610

SUBJECT: Guidance on Effective Public Participation under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

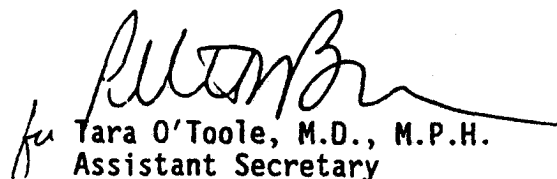
TO: Secretarial Officers and Heads of Field Organizations (list attached)

I am pleased to provide for your use the attached guidance, "Effective Public Participation under the National Environmental Policy Act," that is designed to facilitate DOE's compliance with the requirements and spirit of NEPA. The guidance should aid those responsible for conducting public participation activities related to NEPA by describing techniques and procedures that will enhance the usefulness of the NEPA process to DOE and to its stakeholders. Because each DOE proposed action presents unique circumstances, the paper emphasizes the need for thoughtful case-by-case application of the guidance.

The guidance incorporates the principles and requirements of the Secretary's Policy Statement on the National Environmental Policy Act, issued June 13, 1994, and the Secretary's Public Participation Policy, issued July 29, 1994. My Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance (formerly the Office of NEPA Oversight) prepared the guidance in consultation with the Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Environment and the Office of Public and Consumer Affairs. The Department's NEPA Compliance Officers, NEPA Contacts, NEPA Document Managers, and Field Counsel provided helpful comments on draft guidance. In addition to a broad distribution within the Department, we also plan shortly to provide copies to external stakeholders. We will revise the guidance as appropriate in response to any comments we may receive.

Implementing this guidance should provide immediate benefits to DOE offices that are planning or conducting public participation activities. This guidance, and any subsequent guidance developed specifically for environmental justice considerations, should be incorporated in public participation plans for your organization.

Please direct any questions and suggestions regarding this guidance to Stanley Lichtman, Director, Waste Activities Division, Office of NEPA Policy and Assistance at 202-586-4610.


Tara O'Toole, M.D., M.P.H.
Assistant Secretary
Environment, Safety and Health

Attachment